(b) and (c) Instructions on priority for improvement of riding quality, cost control quality of works and timely completion of works are issued to the State Governments from time to time. Progress of works is also monitored by carrying out reviews of on-going works periodically.

(d) Expenditure on development and maintenance of National Highways in these States during 2001-02 has been reported as under.

(Rs. Crore)

State	Development	Maintenance
Bihar	50.18	38.07
Jharkhand	29.71	19.76

(e) Allocation of funds is made State-wise and not place-wise.

(f) The repairs and maintenance of National Highways is a continuous process.

Mafia Interference in Implementing World Bank funded Road Development Schemes

4644. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that various Centrally Sponsored Road Development Schemes funded by the World Bank in various States are dogged by the activities of underworld mafia;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have received reports that mafias are not allowing such schemes/programmes to be implemented; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government to ensure implementation of various road development schemes without mafia's interference?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS [MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C.

KHANDURI]: (a) to (c) Some contractors have reported that they have received threats relating to extortion, etc. However, the works are in progress.

(d) Ministry has requested the concerned authority to provide adequate safety measures.

Lack of facilities on National Highway No. 8

4645. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that National Highway No.8 between Delhi and Jaipur is more prone towards accident due to lack of facilities; and

(b) what steps have been taken to identify the deficiency in road facilities on NH-8 and make it safe and accident free?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS [MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI]: (a) There have been no reported accidents due to lack of facilities on National Highway No.8 between Delhi and Jaipur which has been four-laned and is in good traffic-worthy condition.

(b) to enhance safety, various facilities have been provided for the users of this Highway, which include improved intersection layout, service roads, signs markings, safety barriers, bus bays and truck parkings. Besides, Highway Traffic Management System has been provided in the stretch between Kotputli and Amer, with emergency call boxes, CCTV, variable message signs, mobile communications, ambulance, crane and highway patrol.

Upgradation of Bhuj-Khavada-India Bridge-Dharamshala State Highway

4646. DR. A. K. PATEL: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal to upgrade the Bhuj-Khavada-India Bridge-Dharamshala State Highway into National Highway is being considered from defence point of view; and